

## Frequently Asked Questions – The Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation (Simonds Saw and Steel)

### General Site Questions

1. Where is the Guterl Site?

The former Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation is located west of Ohio Street and south of Crosby Street in Lockport, New York.

2. How large is the Guterl Site?

The excised portion of the Guterl Site is approximately 2.5 acres. As we progress in our investigation of the site, there may be additional areas identified as being impacted by FUSRAP-related activities that will be included.

3. What is FUSRAP?

FUSRAP stands for the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program. FUSRAP was initiated in 1974 to identify, investigate and clean up or control sites that were part of the Nation's early atomic energy program. Activities at these sites were performed in the 1940's, 1950's and 1960's by the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) or under the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). Both the MED and the AEC were predecessors to the Department of Energy (DOE). In 1997, responsibility for the program was transferred from the DOE to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

The goal of FUSRAP is to clean up or contain the MED- or AEC-related material so that the sites may be released for appropriate future use and to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. For more information on FUSRAP, the FUSRAP Buffalo District fact sheet at [www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/facts/htm](http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/facts/htm) is a good source.

4. What is the current status of the site?

USACE was assigned investigation of the former Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation under FUSRAP on September 22, 2000 after the DOE determined the site was eligible for potential inclusion in the program. The Corps has visited the site and is performing a Preliminary Assessment (PA) by completing a comprehensive review of existing site documents to determine the necessity of further action under FUSRAP. The PA report is being reviewed by USACE Headquarters in Washington and will be posted on the web site once it becomes finalized.

5. What is a PA report?

As part of the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), a Preliminary Assessment (PA) serves as a comprehensive review of existing information to determine the need for further action under FUSRAP.

CERCLA was passed in 1980 to provide the framework for addressing hazardous waste sites from the very initial stages to remedial action and project closeout. In other words, it is the "rules" the Corps of Engineers follows for a project cleanup. CERCLA has very specific phases and steps for each phase that must be followed to ensure a comprehensive

cleanup and a site that will be safe for human health and the environment. For more information on CERCLA, please visit the Corps website at [www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/facts.htm](http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap/facts.htm). Interested citizens can also call the Corps at 1-800-833-6390 or write the Corps at: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, 1776 Niagara St, Buffalo, NY 14207 to request a copy of the CERCLA fact sheet.

6. What FUSRAP-related contaminants do you expect to find there?

The PA has identified those contaminants associated with the uranium and thorium roll milling process as the principal contaminants of concern. A remedial investigation has been recommended for the site for the purpose of determining the nature, extent and location of contamination.

7. How did the site become contaminated?

The former Simonds Saw and Steel Company performed rolling mill operations on uranium and thorium metal from 1948 to 1956. The company was under contract with the AEC to support the Nation's early atomic energy program.

8. Who else has owned the property?

The former Simonds Saw and Steel Company sold the property to Wallace and Murray, who then sold it to the Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation. In March 1984, Allegheny International (now known as Allegheny Ludlum Corporation) bought out the assets of the Guterl Specialty Steel Corporation. Allegheny Ludlum Corporation purchased the entire site with the exception of the areas of the site that had been used during the Manhattan MED activities for the AEC.

9. Is the site dangerous to Allegheny Ludlum Corporation workers or surrounding neighbors?

No. It is important to understand that the radioactive material that was milled at the site from 1948 to 1956 was shipped off the site at the time. Based upon our investigation so far, we believe that only trace amounts of the residual material are remaining. The areas where the MED activities occurred currently pose no risk to workers or neighbors because they are fenced off and no one from the general public has access to them.

10. Is there anything that is currently being done for former employees of Simonds Specialty Steel who became sick from exposures received while working there?

The DOE has initiated the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000. For more information on this act, call the DOE Office of Worker Advocacy toll-free at 1-877-447-9756.

11. How can I learn more about the Guterl Site?

Interested citizens are encouraged to call the FUSRAP toll-free public access line at 1-800-833-6390 with any questions or concerns or visit the Guterl Site website at [www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap](http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/fusrap). The website has many documents available for public viewing relating to the Guterl Site, including site fact sheets and the most recent report, the 1999 Radiological Survey prepared by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, which was prepared for the Department of Energy. FUSRAP also has an

e-mail address at [fusrap@usace.army.mil](mailto:fusrap@usace.army.mil), and we can always be reached by mail at: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, FUSRAP Public Information Center, 1776 Niagara St, Buffalo, NY 14207.

### **Specific Site Questions**

1. Where is the contamination located and what are the levels of the contamination?

The Corps has visited the site and is performing a PA report by completing a comprehensive review of existing site documents to determine the necessity of further action under FUSRAP. The PA report has recommended that a Remedial Investigation (RI) be performed as the next step of the CERCLA process. The RI will address the site-specific questions regarding the nature, extent and location of FUSRAP related contamination. The PA is currently being reviewed by USACE Headquarters in Washington and will be posted on the web site once it becomes finalized.

2. There was a pump house located across the canal that was used during the MED activities. Is that going to be included in your investigation?

The Corps acknowledges that there are some areas (including the pump house) that may need to be investigated. We are committed to doing a comprehensive evaluation of potentially contaminated areas.

3. Has there been any cleanup at the site since the 1950's?

In 1958, the AEC performed a radiological survey to determine the need for remedial action at the site. Decontamination procedures followed and a second survey was completed verifying the success of these efforts according to then current guidelines.

4. If I or someone I know used to work at the site in the 1940's and 1950's and have information to share, who should be contacted?

If anyone knows about activities at the site that went on during the years Simonds Saw and Steel had a contract with the AEC (1948-1956), the Corps would be interested in conducting a brief interview with him or her. Please call the FUSRAP toll-free public access line at 1-800-833-6390, e-mail us at [fusrap@usace.army.mil](mailto:fusrap@usace.army.mil) or write to us at: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, FUSRAP Public Information Center, 1776 Niagara St, Buffalo, NY 14207. First-hand accounts of activities at the site will help us to characterize the site in further detail.

5. Is the Corps going to address chemical contamination at the site as well?

A letter from the DOE to the Corps states that "contaminants of concern from MED and AEC activities (at the site) might include industrial chemicals...and radioactive substances." If, through our research, it is determined that the chemical contamination at the site resulted from MED activities, then the Corps will address that issue. A copy of the letter can be found in the 'documents' section of the Guterl website.

6. What other agencies are involved in the investigation of the site? Who could I contact from those agencies if I had any questions?

There are several other state and Federal agencies interested in the investigation at the site that will be giving comments at the various stages in the investigation. Representatives at the various agencies are available to answer questions regarding their particular areas of expertise. Below is a quick reference list:

For state regulatory information, please contact:

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Ms. Barbara Youngberg: (518) 457-2225 (Albany)

Mr. Michael Podd: (716) 851-7220 (Buffalo)

For information regarding the Employee's Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act 2000, please contact:

The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Worker Advocacy

Toll-free: 1-877-447-9758

For information regarding radiation and its effects on health, please contact:

The New York State Department of Health

Dr. Adela Salame-Alfie: 1-800-458-1158 Ext. 27556

Dr. Karim Rimawi: 1-800-458-1158 Ext. 27550

The Niagara County Department of Health

Mr. Paul Dickey: (716) 439-7595